

REMARKS

This amendment is submitted in response to the final action dated November 5, 2008, in which the claims were rejected under new grounds.

Claims 1-10 and 13-37 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Krasner (6,107,960) in view of Hunter (US 2004/0176034).

Independent claims 1, 18, 19 and 31 have been restricted with the limitations of dependent claim 2. Claims 2, 20 and 32 have been cancelled.

In dependent claims 5, 21 and 33, it has been clarified that the automatic gain control component is an “automatic gain control component configured to control the gain of signals received by said receiver configured to receive signals in the second frequency band”.

Claim 1 has been restricted with the features of claim 2. The examiner considered the features of claim 2 to be disclosed by Krasner. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Since the Examiner accepted that Krasner does not disclose a non-blocking attenuation, it seems to make little sense to assume that Krasner discloses a variable attenuation as in claim 2. The limiting circuitry of Krasner does not enable a variable attenuation.

The Examiner considers the feature of claim 2 (using an increasing attenuation with an increasing amplification of transmitted signals) to be inherently disclosed by col. 7, lines 19-28 and 36-54, referring specifically to the use of a limiting circuitry, which is supposed to be used in controlling a received GPS with a variable attenuation. The Examiner thus seems to consider also a non-blocking attenuation to be rendered obvious.

However, in col. 7, lines 19-28, Krasner described only an embodiment using a gating of a received signal by a switch 112, as mentioned above.

In col. 7, lines 36-41, Krasner describes an alternative embodiment, in which a gating signal may be used to ensure that a received signal is gated at processing circuit 114. This gating signal corresponds again to an interruption of the received signal, which is prevented in the approach of claim 1.

In col. 7, lines 42-54, Krasner describes a further alternative embodiment, in which a gating signal is used for causing a processing circuitry to discard a received signal during periods in which a cellular telephone is transmitting (col. 7, lines 47-54).

Discarding signals before or after processing is obviously different from attenuating a signal before it is processed, as required by claim 1.

Krasner only suggests in addition for this latter embodiment that some type of limiting circuitry may be used to ensure that the RF front end circuitry of the GPS receiver 113 can withstand the high power exclusively for the purpose of protecting the RF front end circuitry from damage. There is no indication that the limiting circuitry comes only to action when the cellular phone is transmitting. A skilled person will rather assume that the limiting circuitry is always active but only has an effect when high power signals are received. There is also no hint that the limiting circuitry applies a variable attenuation. A limiting circuitry generally only prevents a signal from exceeding a predetermined power value. This does not correspond to applying an attenuation that is high enough for preventing the received signal from being evaluated while not blocking the received signal completely. Otherwise, the additional step of discarding used in this embodiment of Krasner would also be superfluous.

In addition, Hunter discloses only enabling or disabling a Notch filtering (par. 0044 + 0048). Hunter does not disclose applying a variable amount of Notch filtering. The same applies to the other independent claims, which comprise corresponding features, and consequently to the dependent claims as well. Nevertheless, the additional inventive aspect of some selected dependent claims will now be pointed out.

Regarding claim 5, the Examiner seems to set equal the power level control in the cellular part of Krasner to the automatic gain control of claim 5. Krasner presents a different constellation than claim 5. This becomes particularly apparent with the carried-out clarification that the automatic gain control component is configured to control the gain of signals received by the receiver configured to receive signals in the second frequency band. A corresponding consideration of information from an automatic gain control component for the GPS part of Krasner, in which the signal blocking is implemented, is not disclosed by Krasner. Also Hunter does not disclose the specific constellation of combining (a) information from an automatic gain control component as defined in claim 5, and (b) information from a communication system section, for determining an attenuation to be set.

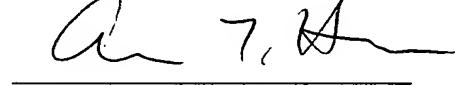
Regarding claim 13, implementing the attenuator specifically by means of a variable amplifier is not disclosed in any of the cited references. Krasner uses a switch or a processing circuitry (see col. 7 of Krasner) and Hunter uses a notch filter (see claim 1 of Hunter), that is only disclosed to be activated or deactivated.

CONCLUSION

The objections and rejections of the Office Action, having been obviated by amendment or shown to be inapplicable, withdrawal thereof is requested and passage of the claims to issue is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Andrew T. Hyman
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 45,858

WARE, FRESSOLA, VAN DER
SLUYS & ADOLPHSON LLP
Building Five, Bradford Green
755 Main Street, P.O. Box 224
Monroe, CT 06468
Telephone: (203) 261-1234
Facsimile: (203) 261-5676
USPTO Customer No. 004955